



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

LYNDO TIPPETT
SECRETARY

**North Carolina Board of Transportation
Environmental Planning and Policy Committee
Meeting Minutes for February 6, 2002**

A meeting of the Environmental Planning and Policy Committee (EPPC) was held on Wednesday, February 6, 2002 at 8:00 AM in the Board Room (Room 150) of the Transportation Building. Nina Szlosberg chaired the meeting. Other Board of Transportation members that attended were:

Conrad Burrell	Margaret Kluttz
Nancy Dunn	Cam McRae
Doug Galyon	Nina Szlosberg
Clark Jenkins	Alan Thornburg
Frank Johnson	

Ms. Szlosberg called the meeting to order. After opening remarks, Ms. Szlosberg accepted a motion to approve the minutes as presented from the January 9, 2002 EPPC meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mike Holder, Division 12 Engineer, presented a draft of the department's Environmental Stewardship Policy, which was developed by the Operations Group. The Division Engineers developed this draft policy statement with the intention that the policy be clear, understandable, and meaningful to all parts of the NCDOT organization. Mr. Holder also presented photographs that demonstrate the divisions' commitment to environmental stewardship. Examples ranged from stream restoration to "natural" mowing of highway rights of way. The policy, which is attached to these meeting minutes, was unanimously endorsed by the EPPC.

Christie Barbee, Executive Director from the Carolina Asphalt Pavement Association (CAPA), provided information on the asphalt industry's efforts to protect the environment. The industry has made advances in the reduction of fumes to improve air quality and safeguard the public's health. Filtering systems are used to capture emissions, and wet scrubbers are not frequently used anymore. The zoning and permitting of asphalt sites has become problematic in recent years due to the public's perception that asphalt plants are harmful to the environment. Asphalt plants must meet all applicable regulations and permitting requirements. Ms. Barbee noted educating the public about the asphalt industry is critical, noting that it is healthier to live next to an asphalt plant than a Krispy Kreme Donuts, noting that a commercial bakery emitted more VOCs than an asphalt plant. Ms. Barbee also noted that there were a number of communities where permitting was a problem, including a case in Chatham County. She indicated that the owners, S.T. Wooten, had recently hired a new law firm with experience in these matters and felt the situation would be handled well. A package of information about CAPA was provided to the committee members.

Clark Jenkins noted that in areas where the public strives to keep asphalt plants from being established, the competition between asphalt providers is low, usually resulting in a higher unit price than in areas where competition is high due to

multiple suppliers. In addition, the unit cost of asphalt increases where asphalt suppliers are not located near a project due to the increased “freight” (or delivery) factor associated with longer haul costs. Cam McRae asked if the industry is experiencing any problem with hot in-place asphalt from a competitive standpoint. Ms. Barbee responded that this technique can be competitive in areas where asphalt plants are generally greater than 50 miles away from the project. She added that hot in-place recycling of asphalt is best used as a preventative measure rather than using it once a road is already falling apart. In addition, Ms. Barbee commented that recycled asphalt is the number one recycled product in North Carolina.

Bill Gilmore, Manager of the Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch (PDEA), briefly introduced NCDOT’s three-pronged approach to mitigation. The three methods NCDOT uses to deliver mitigation are:

- NCDOT’s In-house Program (used primarily for wetlands)
- Wetland Restoration Program (used for streams and wetlands, but the focus is on stream mitigation)
- Private Sector/Bankers (used mostly for wetland mitigation)

Dave Schiller, PDEA Mitigation Specialist, provided the committee with some information on costs and amount of mitigation being handled by each of the three options. After much discussion, the information provided to the committee was retracted, since comparisons between the programs could not be drawn and it was felt that the information was misleading. Mr. Schiller was asked to review the information, taking into consideration the committee's concerns, and provide this information to the committee at a later date.

Ms. Julie Hunkins gave an overview on the webpage that was created for the EPPC by Ryan Nolan, Internet Content Designer in NCDOT’s Information Systems Technology Section. The webpage includes the following:

- Committee mission and responsibilities
- Meeting agendas
- Meeting minutes
- Environmental Stewardship Policy
- Environmental Strategic Plan
- Committee members
- Events
- Links

The committee was asked for input on links that they may want, and Ms. Hunkins requested that the committee give permission to post the webpage. Mr. Jenkins suggested that all committees should consider creating a webpage. Ms. Szlosberg suggested that Ms. Hunkins would be able to connect other committee chairs with the staff at DOT that could assist with that. The committee endorsed the webpage.

The next meeting for the Environmental Planning and Policy Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, March 6, 2002 at 9:00 AM in Room 1105 of the Center for Marine Science at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

NS/jh

NCDOT Environmental Stewardship Policy

The mission of the North Carolina Department of Transportation is to provide an integrated transportation system that enhances the state's well being. Our goal is to provide a safe and well-maintained transportation system, which meets the needs of our customers and supports the development of sustainable, vibrant communities. In so doing, we are committed to planning, designing, constructing, maintaining, and managing an interconnected transportation system while striving to preserve and enhance our natural and cultural resources.

Environmental stewardship encompasses these responsibilities and is reflected in our day-to-day operations by:

- Safeguarding the public's health by conducting our business in an environmentally responsible manner
- Demonstrating our care for and commitment to the environment
- Recognizing that our customers expect us to provide mobility and a quality of life that includes the protection of the natural resources and the cultural and social values of their community.

Each employee is responsible for incorporating these principles of safety, environmental stewardship, and customer focus into their daily activities.

Approved by Board of Transportation on February 7, 2002